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**GERMAN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AND THEIR ANALOGUES IN
RUSSIAN (ON THE MATERIAL OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS
DENOTING PEOPLE'S APPEARANCE)**

***Abstract.** This article describes the process and results of the study of German phraseological units and their counterparts in Russian. The definition of «phraseology» in modern linguistics was examined. The distinctive features of phraseological expressions, in particular phraseological expressions on the subject of «human appearance» were studied in order to highlight the peculiarities of their structure and semantics.*

***Keywords:** phraseology, human appearance.*

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**ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЗМЫ НЕМЕЦКОГО ЯЗЫКА И ИХ АНАЛОГИ В
РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ (НА ОСНОВЕ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЗМОВ СО**

ЗНАЧЕНИЕМ «ВНЕШНОСТЬ ЧЕЛОВЕКА»)

***Аннотация.** В данной статье описан процесс и результаты исследования фразеологизмов немецкого языка и их аналогов в русском языке. Было рассмотрено определение понятия «фразеологизм» в современной лингвистике. Были изучены отличительные особенности фразеологизмов, в частности фразеологизмов на тему «внешность человека» для того, чтобы выделить особенности их структуры и семантики.*

***Ключевые слова:** фразеология, внешность человека.*

The goal of the present article is to show the analogy in German and Russian phraseology. It is known that phraseology is one of the most important layers of the language. Phraseological fund of every language is the source of figurativeness, expressiveness, evaluation and emotionality. Moreover, phraseological units have the possibility to transmit universal and national knowledge from person to person and from generation to generation.

Phraseological units are always directed to the subject. Consequently, they are used in the language with the aim to describe the world, to interpret and reflect the subjective attitude towards the reality. For this reason, phraseology of the language can be defined as a kind of reflection of national identity in the definite linguoculture.

The notion «phraseology» is used in modern Linguistics either to denote a linguistic science studying phraseological units or to reflect the total sum of phraseologisms in a language [13, p. 9].

The subject of phraseology studies is phraseological unit. German and Russian phraseological analogy is not fully researched at the moment. It is the main reason of topicality of investigation of German and Russian phraseological units on one and the same theme.

The problem of study of analogous phraseology of different languages is topical also due to the cultural and national peculiarities of phraseological units. It is linked with the fact that phraseological units can express cultural, mythological, historical,

literature or other moments of development of the society. Phraseological units take part in reflection of extralinguistic cultures.

It is known that phraseology plays an important role in linguo-emotional world picture due to dominating national colouring of phraseological units. People using phraseology have the possibility to express the peculiarities of their own culture and their national character. According to N.M. Shansky, phraseology is a verbal expression of not only the real surroundings of people but also of their spiritual national comprehension [11].

The term «phraseological unit» was first introduced by the Russian scientist V.V. Vinogradov. He used such word in order to denote set expressions which are different from free word-groups [2, p. 98].

In modern Linguistics the term «phraseological unit» can encompass a lot of concepts. From the point of view of O. Karpova, this notion includes comparisons, idioms and phrases. The word «unit» represents the interdependence of the elements of this entity. The term «phraseological», in its turn, expresses its non-compositional aspect and impossibility of literal translation [14, p. 2].

Phraseological unit is defined by A.P. Cowie as «a lexicalized, reproducible billexemic or polylexemic word group in common use, which has relative syntactic and semantic stability, may be idiomatized, may carry connotations, and may have an emphatic or intensifying function in a text» [12, p. 126]. According to R.Z. Ginzburg, phraseological unit is a functionally and semantically inseparable unit [5, p. 73].

Phraseological units must be distinguished from words and free word-combinations, although they have a lot of common features with both of them. Like a word, a phraseological unit expresses one single notion. It exists in the language as a ready-made unit and is not formed in the process of speech. This characterization is common both for words and phraseological units. Moreover, both words and phraseological units act in a sentence as one part of it

One of the peculiar features of phraseological units of German, Russian or any other language is their phraseological meaning which is special and unique for the whole sum of components of a phraseological unit [1, c. 19]. Another feature of

phraseologisms is idiomaticity – a definite level of adhesion between the meanings of the components of phraseological units [7, p. 14]. In structural aspect phraseological units in both Russian and German are fixed in their componential structure and can be used as equivalents of words of different parts of speech in the sentence [11, c. 22].

Phraseological units can be combined in groups according to their theme or general meaning. One of the universal themes of phraseology of different languages including German and Russian is appearance. It is linked with the fact that from the ancient times people of different nationalities describe their own complexion, parts of body, facial expressions, etc. idiomatically and metaphorically. The analysis of the German phraseological dictionary of L. E. Binovich [3] and the Russian phraseological dictionaries of E. A. Bystrova [4] and A.N. Tikhonov [10] helped to reveal the groups of phraseological units concerning physical appearance consisted of 75 idioms in each language.

In the both languages phraseologisms of this theme reflect the general physical appearance of people (*goldene Äpfel in silbernen Schalen, ein Bild für Götter, кровь с молоком, цвести и пахнуть*), age (*auf dem Aussterbeetat sein, alte Bäume sind böse biegen, дышать на ладан, не первой молодости*), complexion (*einen Bauch bekommen, dürr wie eine Hopfenstange, отрастить брюхо, пожарная каланча*), face (*er hat ein Eichhörnchen geschnupft, als ob der Teufel Erbsen auf ihm gedroschen hätte, хоть и ряба, да любя*), clothes (*in Frack und Lack sein, wie ihn Gott geschaggen hat, как влитой, пугало огородное*), height (*zu klein geraten sein, langer Laban, Давид и Голиаф*), peculiarities of eyes (*Stieglaugen machen, глаза на мокром месте*), distinctive features of hair (*er kann sich mit dem Schwamm frisieren, седой как лун*), forehead (*mit dem kannst du Wände einrennen, толоконный лоб*), etc.

Moreover, these thematic groups of phraseological units are equal in German and Russian, according to the percentage of their usage. The most frequently phraseologisms which are observed in the German and Russian language express the general physical appearance (25,3% in each language), age of people (24,3% in each language) and complexion (12,0 and 10,7% in German and Russian).

All German and Russian phraseological units on the theme of human's

appearance are divided into groups according to the level of their idiomaticity. Such classification is suggested by the researcher T.V. Zerebilo who distinguishes fully and partially idiomatical phraseologisms [6].

In the German language the percentage of fully and partially idiomatic phraseological units is almost equal. Fully idiomatic phraseologisms are used in 51 percentage. For example: *wie Milch und Blut aussehen* – to have a fresh complexion and face; *eine bunte Kuh* – an overdressed, glorified person, *mit dem kannst du Wände einrennen* – a person with the strong and solid body. Partially idiomatic phraseological units are observed in the German language in 49 percentage. For example: *in Frack und Lack sein* – to be dressed officially and formal, *über sein erste Jugend hinaus sein* – to be quite old, *nicht leben und nicht sterben* – to be between life and death.

In the Russian language this classification is more diverse. Fully idiomatic phraseological units are dominating and used in 56 percent: *кровь с молоком* – the very picture of health, *с иголки* – to be dressed in brand-new clothes, *молоко на губах не обсохло* – about a young and inexperienced person. Partially idioms are consequently used in 44 percentage. For example: *отрастить брюхо* – to become fat and ugly, *метр с кепкой* – to have a small height, *не первой молодости* – to be old.

The structure of phraseological units is researched on the basis of classification of N.A. Reshke [8]. This classification concerns the correlation of phraseologisms with the definite parts of speech.

In this typology German and Russian phraseologisms about appearance are differently combined.

In the German language the most part of phraseologisms on the analyzed theme (46,7%) are verbal ones. For example: *ein trübes Bild gewähren*, *steif wie auf Rädern auftreten*, *über den Onkel laufen*. In the Russian language verbal phraseologisms occupy only the third place according to their frequency in the dictionaries (20,0%): *дышать на ладан*, *разодеться в пух и прах*, *глядеть в могилу*.

Instead, in the Russian phraseological fund we have observed the dominating position of nominal phraseological units (26,7%). For example: *пожарная каланча*, *метр с кепкой*, *кровь с молоком*. In the German language nominal phraseological

units are less frequent (13,3%): *goldene Äpfel in silbernen Schalen, eine alte Haut, ein netter (niedlicher, reizender) Käfer*.

There also phraseological units of the structure of a sentence frequent in the both languages (*kleine Büchsen, gute Salben, внешность обманчива*), and less frequent attributive phraseologisms (*barfuß bis an den Hals, мал, да удал*), comparing units (*wie ihn Gott geschaggen hat, как маков цвет*) and adverbial idioms (*Zug für Zug, при полном параде*).

We have drawn a conclusion that German phraseological units about appearance have Russian analogues which are similar in theme. But the level of idiomaticity (or semantics) and their structure is often different in the two languages.

In most cases the phraseological analogues of German and Russian phraseological units about humans' appearance are fully equivalent. For example:

Im Flor stehen – цвету (meaning: to have a healthy and beautiful look).

Dastehen wie ein lackierter Affe – стоять как выраженное пугало (meaning: to be unusually dressed).

Nevertheless, in some cases (in 12%) German and Russian phraseological units reflect just the same thematic field but not the same semantics. For example:

Er hat ein Eichhörnchen geschnupft. This German phraseological unit does not have any fully equivalents. But in the Russian phraseological fund there is a partial equivalent reflecting the moustache of people: *много красы, одни скулы да усы*.

Ein Bild für Götter – зрелище для богов. These two phraseological units express different meaning. The German idiom reflects the whole physical appearance of a person and has the meaning of health. In the Russian language the similar phraseological units is *кровь с молоком* denoting someone healthy, bloomy and beautiful.

Comparison of componential structure of phraseological units about appearance in German and language shows that full analogues are observed here very rarely:

David und Goliath – Давид и Голиаф (the big and the small).

Lange Haare, kurzer Verstand – волос долог, да ум короткий (about stupid

person).

The most part of Russian phraseological units about appearance have other components than equivalent Russian phraseological units.

Häßlich wie die Nacht – страшна, как смертный грех. The Russian analogue fixed in German-Russian dictionary [9] has just the same semantics, but the aspect of comparison of the general physical appearance of a human in two linguocultures is different: in the German culture an ugly person is compared with the night, while in the Russian culture there is a comparison with the sin.

Langer Laban – верста коломенская. In the German language the main characteristic component of the big height of a person is the noun *Laban* with the meaning «blockhead, clunk». In the Russian language the analogous phraseological unit by the semantics is *верста коломенская*. This is a culturally-coloured phraseological unit concerning the usage of the Russian lexical gap *верста*. But these phraseologisms express just the same meaning: «the big height».

Thus, in semantic aspect most Russian phraseological units about appearance are full analogues of the German phraseologisms. But their componential structure is similar only partially.

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